



COMMANDER
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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VX-9 Holds Change of Command

CHINA LAKE, California (NNS) -- The "Vampires" of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 9 conducted an airborne change of command ceremony near Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) China Lake, California, July 31.

During the ceremony, Capt. Gordon "Gordo" Cross will relieve Capt. Scott "Fish" Fisher. Cross is currently serving as VX-9's chief operational test director (COTD).

Fisher, a native of San Diego, and graduate of the University of California at San Diego, will be retiring after 26 years of naval service. He served as VX-9's COTD from July 2011 until March 19, 2013, at which time Fisher became the squadron's commanding officer.

As commanding officer of VX-9, the largest military unit at NAWCWD, Fisher is responsible for directing the efforts of more than 400 Sailors, Marines and civilians. During his tenure at VX-9, his leadership ensured the successful completion of operational testing on 41 defense acquisition programs, including the AIM-120D Advanced Air-to-Air Missile; Advanced Anit-Radiation Ground Missile; software updates to the F/A-18 Super Hornet, EA-18G Growler, EA-6B Prowler, and H-1 helicopters; and upgrades to the Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar.

Cross, a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is a 1990 graduate of the University of Michigan.

Cross' career as a naval aviator includes assignments with Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 97 aboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63); U.S. Naval Test Pilot School; (VX-23); VFA-86 aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65); U.S. Special Operations Command staff; as commanding officer of VFA-27 aboard Kitty Hawk and USS George Washington (CVN 73); and Navy Staff as the Head Aviation Analyst, Programming Division (N80). Cross reported as the COTD at VX-9 in March 2013.

VX-9's mission is to test and evaluate weapons and their related systems in direct support

of the Naval Aviation fleet.

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